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今日北京

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY
ISSUE NO. 709
JANUARY 16, 2015
BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN
3.00元

ART IN A FLASH

BU HUA MADE THE JUMP TO DIGITAL IN 2001.
HER FLASH/ART AND ANIMATIONS EXPLORE THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN MAN AND HIS SOCIAL WORLD. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ISSN: 2095-9591 ■ 刊号: CN11-0120 ■ 邮发代号: I-364 ■ Overseas Code No: D1545 ■ Subscriptions: (010) 6590 2511
Advertisements: (010) 6590 2515 ■ E-mail: info@beijingtoday.com.cn ■ Online Distribution Agents: Spider.com.cn and Kankan.cn
Published under the auspices of the Office of the Beijing Municipal Government. Run by Beijing Youth Daily Group.

ISSN 2095-9591
00709
9 772095 959006



ENTERTAINMENT



The Eight Vajra

Photos by douban.com



Zhang Hanyu as Yang Zirong



Lin Gengxin as Shao Jianbo

Peking Opera Gets a 3D Reboot

BY DIAO DIAO

The *Taking of Tiger Mountain*, a fairly modern Peking Opera, was recently adapted into a 3D film by director Hark Tsui.

Although the film's public reception has been lukewarm, reviewers said it offers an interesting take on a classic opera and the one-liners and special effects make it worth the price of admission.

Tsui is famous for his unusual approach to directing. Unlike past works that left his audience with a strange feeling, *The Taking of Tiger Mountain* has found more general acceptance. Some even called on Tsui to attempt a similar reboot of other classic operas and movies.

The movie and play are based on

Linhai Xueyuan, a novel that tells a story of battles between People's Liberation Army soldiers and bandit gangs in the forests in northeast China.

Yang Zirong is a soldier in Troop 203 of the People's Liberation Army and the kind of man who has a hard time winning anyone's trust. The group leader Shao Jianbo is loath to rely on him since he looks like a wild bandit and is familiar with Chinese thieves' cant. But Yang's appearance and skill enable the group to break the bandit code and sneak in as a spy.

The story also shows the growth of Gao Bo, a bodyguard who accompanied Troop 203, and the Eight Vajra, who play a humorous role in the story.

Although the story doesn't focus on

love, it does have two female characters: Qinglian, a woman captured by the bandit leader, and Bai Ru, a kind girl working as a nurse in Troop 203.

Many viewers praised Tsui for his casting selection. Zhang Hanyu plays Yang Zirong, and his handsome and wild appearance fits the character. Shao Jianbo is played by Lin Gengxin, a young actor known for his energetic roles.

The only criticism was his casting of Tong Liya and Yu Nan as Bai Ru and Qinglian – mostly because the two are uncharacteristically beautiful for the era.

Lines like "Hey guys! Someone's trying to see my ass!" give the film enough of a ridiculous atmosphere to break the tension in what could have been another stodgy, pseudo-historical flick. ■

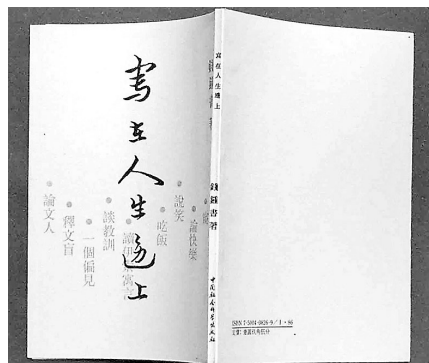


Qian Zhongshu and his wife Yang Jiang, another famous Chinese writer.

Modern China's Man of Letters

BY DIAO DIAO

Qian Zhongshu may be modern China's greatest man of letters. The humorous and witty writer is best known for his novel *Wei Cheng*, widely



Photos by CFP & book.kongfz.com

regarded as one of the funniest entries in China's modern literary canon.

But throughout his life, Qian's interests were often diverted into other fields such as comparative literature and Chinese studies. His work and notes became *The Marginalias of Life*, a collection of essays he completed during the Japanese occupation of Shanghai.

Qian's articles are interesting, humorous and profoundly philosophical. The collection is presented as his notes on "the book of life." Qian says that even when life is hard to understand, it's worth trying to keep a written record of its events.

His most interesting contention is that all writers, whether working in the world of fiction or fact, are ineffect

commentators. All written works are comments on or reactions to life, which is inherently greater than the sum of all written works.

In this compilation, Qian says that life cannot always be happy because life isn't happy.

Nevertheless, Qian encourages readers to be optimistic. He regarded the contradiction between what people want and what life can offer as "the biggest joke that life plays on itself."

Although Qian wrote many famous articles during his life, he never embraced his fame. Many readers have noted that all his works are honest and authentic, and Qian writes as though he is having a face-to-face conversation with the reader. ■

MUSIC



LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Wanneng Qingnian @ School Bar

Wanneng Qingnian Lüdian is having its first solo performance at School Bar. The show will be an instrumental session with a mix of and some new songs and old favorites. Only 200 tickets are available for the event.

🕒 January 17, 9-11:30 pm
📍 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng
💎 120 yuan (pre sale only)

Low Wormwood @ Mako Live Club

Low Wormwood, a northwestern band founded in 2003, won the Best Album Award at the 20th Chinese Rock Music, Best Band at Chinese Media in 2012, Best Folk and Rock Band at Folk China in 2013 and other awards in 2014. They're starting a new musical journey this year after returning from a tour in Europe.

🕒 January 17, 8:30-11:30 pm
📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang
💎 100 yuan (pre sale); 120 yuan (at door)

Metal Rock Festival @ MAO Livehouse

Rock bands are meeting at MAO Livehouse to celebrate the New Year. The lineup includes Banhen Tizhi, Multi-Ego, Die From Sorrow, Fengtian, Wu You, Pingjunlü and Ephemerality.

🕒 January 17, 7-11:30 pm
📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
💎 80 yuan (Douban pre sale); 100 yuan (at door)



Mr. Miss @ Slow Living Club

This vocal jazz team came together in 2009 when its members were studying at Peking University. Their music includes pop, Latin jazz and vocal jazz standards. The judges on several TV shows praised Mr. Miss for their light and graceful sound.

🕒 January 17, 8:30-10:30 pm
📍 73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng
💎 32 yuan (pre sale); 40 yuan (at door)

Introverted ROCKERS are Out to Twinkle

BY DIAO DIAO

While the popular image of a career musician might be passionate, wild and crazy, Twinkle Star is decidedly different. The members behind one of China's few emo rock groups are far more introverted than their songs let on.

Twinkle Star was founded in 2008 by full-time guitarist Zhang Shuai. Zhang's interest in guitar grew out of a love affair with the 1980s Chinese rock band Beyond. After graduating from Midi Music School, Zhang decided to follow his dreams to the stage.

"Starlight originates from a very powerful source, and that's what we want to be. So we named the band Twinkle Star," he said.

Zhao Meng, Twinkle Star's female singer, and its bassist Liu Chang joined up shortly after. Like Zhang, both treat the band as their full time job.

Emo rock, also known as emotional

rock, is a branch of hardcore punk that took shape in the early 1990s and became popular a little more than a decade ago. The alternative style is fairly flexible and most emo bands have very different images.

Twinkle Star's style of emo rock lands somewhere between pop and punk and features melody lines that feel more European than American. It's a sound that Zhao describes as bursting with hope, happiness, sentimentality and passion.

The band's most popular song to date is "The Unknown Future," an autobiographical track that describes the rough growth of the band from its start. Liu said a changing industry is forcing this generation of musicians to sacrifice more for their art than ever before.

All the members work together to write new songs, and Zhang said they often switch parts during rehearsal to find more possibilities for each song. "We are always willing to try new things," he says.

But before being a band, Twinkle Star is a family. Making the band their full time job puts the members together often enough to regularly find inspiration and ideas – even while arguing.

And their personalities guarantee arguments.

For Liu, music is a way to prop up his soul and keep himself out of jail. Zhao, on the other hand, is the epitome of an emotional and introverted girl. Once on stage she becomes another person who shines and explodes with energy.

Zhang sees his emotional role in the band as balancing out their energy and cultivating a positive mood.

The members are recording a new album for 2015 to follow last year's EP *Don't Look Back* and their 2012 debut album *The End of the New Beginning*. ■



Photos by Twinkle Star

ARTISTS

Digital Artist Finds Herself Through Animation

BY LYNNE WANG



Don't Afraid of Meeting Again

Photos by Bu Hua

While easel arts still remain the dominant media for most Chinese artists, Bu Hua expresses her inner thoughts through digital painting and experimental animation.

Her video exhibition AD 3012, now on display at Originality Square in 798 Art District, features an impressive scene in which the downfall of material civilization has left the universe caught in endless darkness. A girl's Tai Chi performance lights the world by raising the sun.

"It's how I feel about this blundering and arrogant world," Bu says. "In spite of material richness, our spiritual inheritance remains empty and dark. We have to return our hearts to a state of sincerity, awe and sunshine to fight it."

Nurtured by an artistic family, Bu started to paint before she could read or write and won attention by designing a postage stamp when she was 10 years old. She held her first solo exhibition in Hong Kong only six years later.

But early success only brought her a nervous obsession with artistic performance. After graduating from Central Academy of Art and Design, Bu continued her studies in the Netherlands. When she returned to China in 1998, technology had advanced enough to give her a new medium for expression.

"After so many years of exploration, I found Adobe Flash was perfect for me. Flash allowed me to utilize color, structure and style in ways that traditional painting makes impossible. There was no limit on the complexity or layers of a picture," Bu says.

Bu started to develop Flash animations in 2001. The boom in digital technology in the early 2000s helped her distinctive art to attract public attention.

Created in 2002, *Cat* is one of her best-known works. The five-minute animated film depicts a story about the vagrant life of a mother cat and kitten. The kitten's world is full of love and happiness thanks to the protection and care of her hardworking mother, but she never grows up until death comes to take her mom. Faced with uncertainty and struggle, the kitten uses her courage to drag her loved one back from limbo.

In spite of the simple plot, viewers resonated with *Cat's* wood-block style, narrative rhythm and sad soundtrack.

"Unlike most humorous Flash animations, Bu's works are souring. She adds an imaginative wing to traditional painting," *Southern Weekly* wrote in its review.

After the success of *Cat*, Bu continued to create a series of animated films based on a seemingly identical theme: the bitterness and confusion of growth. In *A Seed's Journey*, created in 2004, Bu tells the story of a seed who endeavors to find who she is by following and simulating many species. The seed's efforts end in misery, but she eventually discovers she's a beautiful flower.

The seed's story seems to be Bu's autobiography as a little girl trying to find her true self. A self-portrait of Bu as a girl in a red scarf and school uniform has become a symbol of her more recent work. Unlike her former wood-block style, the girl always appears in an extremely delicate and imaginative scene full of thought-provoking elements.

"Humans are a product of their environment. We grow up in an environment full of rules and concerns, but it's necessary to find our 'real' selves when we become adults," Bu says. "The process of finding myself is illustrated in my work. In my subconscious, I expect myself think and behave freely like a girl – not to perform for the sake of others – and to achieve my own dreams."

Apart from the style of pictures, the change in Bu's mindset is also reflected in her art. It has become more focused on the relationship between individuals and their social environment than confusion and hesitation.

Savage Growth, one of her works from 2008, highlights uncertainty in the context of globalization. Bu uses the conflict between a pigeon and a bird-like plane as a metaphor for cultural and economic invasion.

"Conventional wisdom is that mainstream art is finished by hand and unchanging. But that's no longer true. The rapid development of digital technology has brought us into a new era and significantly changed the way we interpret the world, as well as art," says Wang Boqiao, the founder of Digital Art in China.

"In the last decade, digital animation has broken away from pop culture to find a home in art communities. I hope more people can learn to love it and use it to express their ideas," Bu says. ■



Adai Brothers Watch Doomsday



Adolescence



Meditating



Artificial Fairyland

AD 3012

Through March 3

Zone B Originality Square, 798 Art District, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

卜桦ART (weibo.com/1834387724)

A TRAVEL



Photo by nipic.com



Photo by aichong.com



Photo by fungsung.com



Photo by frtp-sh.com

50 Years of Performance Art

BY LI RUIQI



Photo by aichong.com



Photo by visitbeijing.com.cn



Photo by scnt.gov.cn

Capital Theatre Relic of Old Beijing

During the last 50 years, masterpieces that depict restless civilian life have made Capital Theatre the cradle of classic plays and genius actor. Many plays that premiered here in the 1950s have become landmark creations in contemporary drama.

Chaguan by Lao She and Leiyu by Cao Yu both debuted at the Capital Theatre.

The notion of *renyi* still resonates today, not only as a brand for decent plays but a gathering place of artistic youth. Visit the nearby Sanlian Bookstore in Dongsì and then hunt for traditional foods in the hutong. Finish the day with an evening show at the capital theatre for a pleasant weekend in Beijing.

- 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
- ☎ 4006655501
- 🌐 bjry.piao66.com
- 🚌 Take Bus 103, 104, 108 or 111 to Dengshikouxi and walk north 250 meters.

Worker's Stadium Songs for 60,000

A concert at Worker's Stadium is the dream of every Chinese pop singer.

Built in 1959, Worker's Stadium hosts a lot more than national sporting events. It was home to all kinds of live concerts before the construction of the Bird's Nest and MasterCard Center in 2008.

The stage played host to pioneers of Chinese rock like Cui Jian and Heibao Band.

The stadium is constantly offering different styles of music with many artists visiting from abroad. From 1997 to 2008, Worker's Stadium hosted performances by artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan such as Eason Chan, Jay Chou and Leehom Wang.

In Labor Stadium, you can find Bossa Nova by Japanese singer Lisa Ono or roar along with 60,000 others during a live show with Jessie J and Akon.

- Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 6502 5505
- 🌐 search.damai.cn
- 🚌 Take Bus 113 or 118, get off at the Gongrentiyuchang stop and walk west about 180 meters west.

Forbidden City Concert Hall Concerts & Chorus

The Forbidden City Concert Hall is found inside Zhongshan Park, the bridge between the Forbidden City and Zhongnanhai. The hall holds more than 300 performances each year and is the home of the China Philharmonic Orchestra and Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

With soft seats and insulated walls, the hall is one of the best symphony venues in China. Most concerts consist of tunes by a specific composer such as Mozart or Beethoven, though there are also theme concerts like Memorial Soundtracks of Hollywood.

Musicians and musicologists often visit the Forbidden City Concert Hall to lecture on musical genre or the cultural interpretations behind the songs. A professor from Tianjin Music Academy and frequent speaker shares stories about the relationship between music and scholars in ancient China.

- Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
- ☎ (010) 6559 8285
- 🌐 fcchbj.com
- 🚌 Take Line 1 of the subway and get off at Tian'anmenxi Station. Follow Exit B and walk 5 minutes east to reach the south gate of Zhongshan Park. The hall is in the northwest corner.

Chang'an Grand Theatre Essence of Chinese Culture

Chang'an Grand Theatre is an old name in Beijing. Built in 1937, the theatre is associated with the Four Dans of Peking Opera: Mei Lanfang, Cheng Yanqiu, Shang Xiaoyun and Xun Huisheng.

The original building in Xidan was demolished in 1989. The current location at Jianguomen is a restoration completed in 1996. Shows at the new theatre are designed for tourists to make use of a multi-functional stage with lifts and revolving platforms.

The new theater is capable of putting on extraordinary performances based on classic plays like Jiangxianghe and Bawangbieji.

- 7 Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 6552 6892
- 🌐 changandaxiyuan.cn
- 🚌 Take Bus 1, 4 or 10 to Jianguomen stop. The theatre is 420 meters to the north.



Photo by qdifeng.com

ETCETERA

Netspeak 101: Faux Idioms

BY DIAO DIAO



Chinese idioms are famous for their accuracy and simplicity. But not all idioms are as they appear. Recently, it has become popular in Internet jargon to make up new phrases that resemble idioms. But it may be a long time before any of them sneak their way into your idiom dictionary.

Xǐ Dà Pǔ Bēn

In Xǐ Dà Pǔ Bēn (喜大普奔), we see a fusion of four real Chinese idioms.

Xǐ stands for Xǐ Wén Lè Jiàn (喜闻乐见), meaning happy to see. Da stands for Dà Kuài Rén Xīn (大快人心), meaning it feels great to have revenge.

Pǔ stands for Pǔ Tiān Tóng Qīng (普天同庆), meaning people in the world celebrate. Bēn stands for Bēn Zǒu Xiāng Gào (奔走相告), meaning people run and tell each other the news.

Bù Míng Júe Lì



Bù Míng Júe Lì (不明觉厉) is actually a contraction of a longer sentence that means, "I don't know what it means, but I'm sure it's awesome!" In this case, the characters literally mean "don't know, feel awesome."

The phrase is usually used to express admiration when someone is talking about something you don't understand.

Lèi Júe Bú Ài

Lèi Júe Bú Ài (累觉不爱) is a contraction of a longer sentence that means, I feel too tired to be able to love. The characters literally mean, "feel tired, can't love."

It is most often said by someone who is feeling depressed after a long run of bad luck. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANGO

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design.

For more comics, visit his Sina Weibo feed at [tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

Ask Beijing Today is our weekly attempt to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. All my friends have been to the Ice Festival in Harbin. I am wondering when it starts and what people can do there?

A. It starts on January 5 every year and lasts for a month. You can visit

the Bingxue Dashijie, or World of Ice and Snow, which is highly recommended by visitors. It costs 200 yuan to enter or 80 yuan for students. Skiing or snowboarding around Harbin is great, and the snow is much better than that found in Beijing.

Q. Do you know how can I get my cellphone number back if I lose my mobile phone?

A. If your SIM card service is China Mobile, just go to a China Mobile Service Center near you.

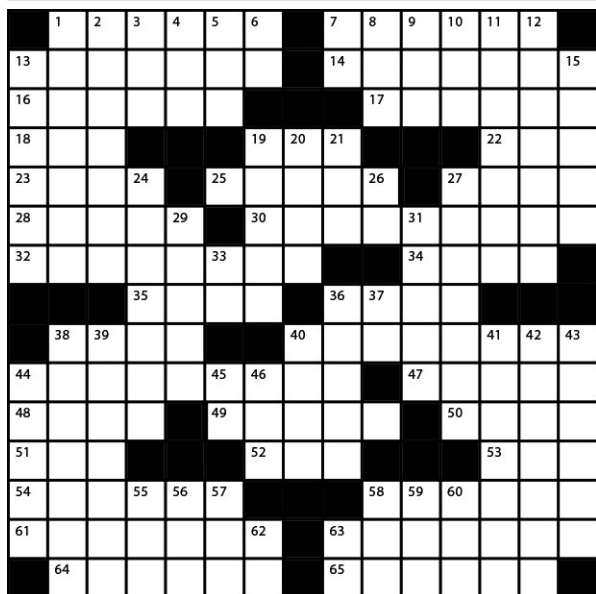
Tell them you lost your phone and want the same number back. You will get a new SIM card with the same number and the same credit that was in the phone when you lost it, assuming no one else has used your phone in the meantime. A China Mobile Service Center is different from stores that sell China Mobile SIM cards. Call 10086 for directions.

Q. My roommate and I are sharing an apartment with a rent of 6,000 yuan per month, but

my roommate just told me that she could not withdraw enough money because of a 3,000 yuan per day limit on Chinese ATMs. Is this true? What is the normal withdrawal limit on most Chinese ATMs?

A. Since June 2007, the total withdrawal limit on Chinese ATMs has risen to at most 20,000 yuan per card per day. But each machine might have its own limit. If she can wait in the bank to see a teller, she can withdraw as much as 50,000 yuan. ■

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. China's favorite chat
7. Language of the Koran

13. Hokkaido's capital
14. Stink
16. Take to the sky
17. Chinese dumplings
18. Rent out

19. First Emperor
22. ____ Zeppelin
23. Oodles
25. Aromatic seed
27. Eat formally
28. Disband, to Brits
30. He speaks terse truths
32. Muscle builders
34. Like fine wine
35. Seafood fishes
36. Sharpen
38. Flu symptom
40. Marvel antihero
44. One who assigns times
47. Winter warmer
48. Gunk
49. Ashen
50. A Northern bastard in the world of Westeros
51. Harry's friend at Hogwarts
52. Windows forerunner
53. Postal center
54. Renounce
58. Long wave
61. Buddy

63. Private plane facility
64. Seesaw
65. Cheesy chips

Down

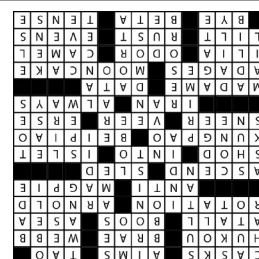
1. Ripple
2. Perfect example
3. Tax pro
4. Alluring
5. "You ____ here"
6. "____ and fro"
7. Early hours
8. Indian ruler
9. ____ Baba
10. Neckwear
11. Worship
12. Hoodwinked
13. Leafy dishes
15. Jockey
19. Leg muscles, for short
20. Evil spirits
21. US medical research
24. Burned down
26. Nyet
27. Condensed books
29. Voiced displeasure
31. Rajahs' wives
33. Ego's counterpart
36. Wounds
37. Atop
38. Circus star
39. Spring Festival (pinyin)
40. Mexican money
41. Red envelopes
42. Romeo & Juliet, for instance
43. Heavy edit
44. Fight
45. 2009 Pixar movie
46. Kid
55. Put to work
56. Untrustworthy one
57. Away from WSW
58. Spy agency
59. Tolkien baddie
60. Shown on an American speedometer
62. Otherwise
63. Article

Send your completed crossword within two weeks to get our next two issues mailed out for free!

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Chaoyang District
Beijing 100026

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Last Week's Solution (No. 707)



Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



The Imagery of Painting: An Awakening

Taking imagery as its subject, this forum engages contemporary dilemmas in painting. Curator Dai Zhuoqun narrates two theses encompassing his own opinions and research on the topic.

The first presents imagery as a response to the relationship between current painting practices and Chinese painting traditions. As a self-sufficient painting system that has persisted for more than a thousand years, Chinese painting has no precedent of realism or abstraction. Instead, the spirit becomes written form.

The second topic considers the unprecedented revolutions in painting over the past century. The intersecting of these two issues is intended to break through artificial barriers between traditional and current Chinese painting. The imagery is the point of incision for directly confronting the essence of painting.

- ⌚ 2 - 4 pm, January 29
- 📍 Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 Free, but tickets required
- ☎ (010) 5780 0200
- ✉ visitor@ucca.org.cn
- 🌐 ucca.org.cn

DINING



Dining Carnivore's Club: Yunnan Style

Attention food lovers! The guest chef for the first Carnivore's Club of 2015 will be Chef Sue Zhou on January 24. Following two extremely successful Carnivore's

Club dinners of pork and beef, Chef Rob Cunningham and Zhou will be surprising diners with a Yunnan spin on chicken.

Cunningham created the Carnivore's Club to increase awareness of secondary cuts and offal. Growing up on a farm in Victoria, Australia, the Cunningham family used every part of the animal for cooking. Today, few people still regularly consume all parts of an animal. Cunningham is on a mission to change Beijing's mindset.

- ⌚ 5:30 - 10 pm, January 24
- 📍 Feast (Food by EAST), 2/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 238 yuan (15 percent gratuity)
- ☎ (010) 8414 9820
- ✉ feast@east-beijing.com

STAGE



The Humor Section Presents Pete Johansson

The Humor Section is back with comedian Pete Johansson. The Canadian-born writer and actor currently lives in the UK and has made a number of notable television appearances, including Comedy Central's Premium Blend, CTV's Comedy Now, CBC's Comics! and CBS's The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn.

He has also appeared at the prestigious Just for Laughs festival and HBO's Aspen Comedy Arts festival. This Humor Section will be the last one hosted by Des Bishop, so don't miss the opportunity to see Des before he leaves China.

- ⌚ 8 - 10 pm, January 18
- 📍 The Bookworm, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
- 💎 150 yuan (presale), 180 yuan (at door)
- ☎ (010) 6586 9507
- ✉ order@beijingbookworm.com
- 🌐 chinabookworm.com

MUSIC



Tonight, I Am in New Delhi: Hanggai 2015

Founded in 2004, Hanggai is China's most popular band on the international festival circuit today. The Mongolian rock band has travelled to 60 countries and regions and played more than 500 shows. Hanggai has repeatedly been the last act at Wacken, the world's largest heavy metal festival, and WOMAD, a multinational

world music festival.

Its song "Ayrhundu," also known as the Drinking Song, was selected as the theme song for Holland's Zwarte Cross festival. Hanggai has appeared in televised performances in Canada, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Holland, Mexico, New Zealand and China.

- ⌚ 9 - 11:30 pm, January 17
- 📍 Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
- 💎 150 yuan (at door), 120 yuan (presale)
- ☎ (010) 6404 2711
- ✉ info@yugongyishan.com
- 🌐 yugongyishan.com

COMMUNITY



Preparing for Spring Festival Through Art

Chinese Spring Festival is the nation's most ceremonious and distinctive traditional festival. Every province has its own customs, traditions and celebrations.

Get your hands in the celebration and tune your creative juices to make interesting and festive decorations. Enjoy the New Year atmosphere as the holiday approaches. Gain knowledge and practical skills you can take back into the classroom.

Come and join us in this creative teacher's professional development program. Certificates will be provided upon completion of the workshop.

- ⌚ 9:30 am - 3 pm, January 17
- 📍 IMTI Campus, 688 Glory Palace, 2 Shunfu Lu, Renhe Town, Shunyi
- 💎 400 yuan
- ☎ (010) 8949 6877, 18500617806
- ✉ snowzhang@imti-china.com
- 🌐 imti-china.com



Departing from China with Pets: Step-by-Step Guidelines

It is never too early to begin preparations for overseas travel with pets! Come join the experts at ICVS as we share step-by-step instructions on the exit process, microchipping, vaccinations and other requirements into help you prepare for a smooth departure from China and an easy

entry into your next destination country.

This session is free and everyone is welcome! Send an email to the organizers before January 16 to confirm your attendance.

We will be sharing advice on pet transport safety, choosing airlines and minimizing travel-related stress for you and your pets. New airline regulations for cargo transport and "winter black-out" periods affecting pet travel will also be shared.

- ⌚ 11 am - 12 pm, January 17
- 📍 International Center for Veterinary Services, 13-16 Rongke Ganlan Chengshang Jie, Futong Xi Dajie, Wangjing, Chaoyang
- ☎ (010) 8456 1939 / 1940
- ✉ ICVS_CHINA@yahoo.com
- 🌐 ICVSASIA.com

SPORTS



Moria Chappell, American Tribal Fusion Belly Dance Master Workshop

Tribal fusion bellydance is a new dance style born in the US in the late 1990s through a fusion of Oriental, Indian and Flamenco dances.

Snaky, mesmerizing, elegant, poetic and strange, the uniqueness of tribal bellydance movements lies in a challenging combination of muscle isolation and layering of the different parts of the body. A tribal bellydancer also stands out thanks to her amazing and very personal costume design, which is usually inspired by goddesses, fairies, mythical creatures and legendary animals.

- ⌚ 8-10 pm, January 23
- 📍 Dongzhimen Terminal, 45 Dongzhimenwai Xiejie, Dongcheng
- 💎 1,800 yuan
- ☎ (010) 6467 4995 / 1346
- ✉ moriachappell.com

YACHT



🌐 www.hackerboat.com



HOLIDAY FOODS



Holiday Foods: Traditional Laba Garlic

BY DIAO DIAO

While the Chinese tradition of making Laba porridge, also known as eight-treasure porridge, is widely known across the country, northern China has another way to celebrate the approaching send of the Lunar year.

The eighth day of the 12th lunar month is known as the Laba Festival and Beijing families celebrate by pickling garlic. Jars prepared on that day are opened and enjoyed on Chinese New Year's Eve.

The mysterious green garlic can be made only during the coldest days of winter. Though many restaurants like to cheat nature and make their Laba garlic in a freezer, the taste and texture is actually quite different

from garlic prepared in the traditional fashion.

The bright green color is the result of chemical changes brought about by the garlic's reaction to low temperatures while sealed in an acidic environment.

Laba garlic tastes sour and sweet, and the vinegar helps to blunt the spiciness of raw cloves. The garlic balances out greasy tastes, aids digestion and goes well with rice, noodles, dumplings and other foods. Garlic also kills bacteria and helps to prevent various diseases.



Photos by xiauwu.com & CFP

The vinegar used to soak garlic is worth saving for its unique taste. People who don't like the strong taste of Laba garlic usually still enjoy using the spicy vinegar as a dip.

Laba garlic should be made using heads of garlic that have a purple skin to ensure the best taste. The Laba Festival falls on January 27 this year, so it's almost the right time to start making your own Laba garlic and Laba vinegar at home. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Laba Garlic with Tripe

BY DIAO DIAO

Laba garlic with tripe, or Labasuan feichang, is a popular dish served in almost every Beijing restaurant during the winter. Pickled garlic helps to make the pig tripe more palatable.

The dish requires Laba garlic, a kind of pickled garlic that is traditionally prepared on the eighth day of the 12th lunar month.

Peel 500g of purple garlic and toss the cloves in a big jar. Fill the jar with black vinegar until the garlic is fully submerged. After that, seal the container and leave it outside your window for four weeks or until the garlic turns green.

It's really that easy.



Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 300g pig tripe | <input type="checkbox"/> sesame oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laba garlic | <input type="checkbox"/> dried chili peppers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 piece star anise | <input type="checkbox"/> ground black pepper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2g salt | <input type="checkbox"/> starch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp soy sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> Laba vinegar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp oyster oil | <input type="checkbox"/> ginger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tsp huangjiu | <input type="checkbox"/> prickly ash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oil | <input type="checkbox"/> starchy water |

The Steps:

1. Clean the intestines and place them in a bowl of water. Add some salt and vinegar and let them stand for an hour. Transfer to a basin of starchy water that has been used to wash rice. Soak another 30 minutes.
2. Transfer the cleaned intestines to a pot of cold water and begin heating. Once the water reaches a rolling boil, cook the intestines another minute before removing to a cutting board. Cut into segments.
3. Add some oil to a pan. Add the prickly ash, star anise and minced ginger and begin to stir fry. When the spices become fragrant, add the huangjiu, soy sauce and oyster oil. Reduce the flame and cook 10 minutes.
4. Add the salt and pepper powder.
5. Add the intestines and return to a small flame. Thicken the juice with a mixture of starch and water. Season with sesame oil.

Beijing's Most Popular Original Restaurant

BY DIAO DIAO

Original recipes, classic furniture and pear soup make Xiaodiao Litang one of the city's most popular restaurant chains.

Its most ordered and most recommended drink is the restaurant's pear soup. A large kettle costs 28 yuan and comes with enough stock to serve a table of five. The boiled pears smell fragrant and taste only mildly sweet. Each table has a small stove to keep the pot warm.

Its most popular dishes include pear shrimp, which are made out of pear balls and sweet and sour shrimp, spare-ribs cooked with prickly ash and pepper, Laba garlic and tripe, and many kinds of juicy rice.

Cold dishes like jellied cheese in the shape of a fish, red bean cakes and traditional Beijing pea cakes are also popular.

The decor is a throw back to Old Beijing with tables and chairs made of heavy wood and purple pottery tableware.

The restaurant has long lines during dinner and lunch hours. Guests who are waiting for an open seat can enjoy free lemon water and snacks by the door. ■



Pear soup



Red bean cakes



Jellied cheese in the shape of a fish

Photos by dianping.com

➤ Xiaodiao Litang

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